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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Eleventh special session
Vienna, 29 January-2 February 1990
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1). The Commission normally elects a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. It has been the practice of the Commission to elect the outgoing officers to the post immediately superior to the post which they leave and to elect a new Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda for the eleventh special session was proposed by the Commission at its thirty-third regular session and approved by the Economic and Social Council by its decision 1989/119 of 22 May 1989.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Commission normally establishes a timetable for the session. A provisional timetable (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.1) will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the Steering Committee, which is established following the election of officers. The proposals of the Steering Committee are then considered by the Commission.

A provisional list of documents for the session (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.2) will be circulated.

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/CN.7/1990/1)
Annotations to the provisional agenda (E/CN.7/1990/1/Add.1)
Provisional timetable (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.1)
Provisional list of documents (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.2)

3. Urgent matters concerning the implementation of international drug control treaties

Under item 3 of its provisional agenda, the Commission is called upon to carry out its treaty functions under the provisions of various articles of the international drug control treaties.

The Commission will examine six recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO) in accordance with article 3 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending that Convention, 1/ to the effect that the substances alpha-methylthiofentanyl (N-[1-[1-methyl-2-(2-thienyl)ethyl]-4-piperidyl]propionanilide), para-fluorofentanyl (4'-fluoro-N-(1-phenethyl-4-piperidyl)propionanilide), beta-hydroxyfentanyl (N-[1-(beta-hydroxyphenethyl)-4-piperidyl]propionanilide), beta-hydroxy-3-methylfentanyl (N-[1-(beta-hydroxyphenethyl)-3-methyl-4-piperidyl]propionanilide), thiofentanyl (N-[1-[2-(2-thienyl)ethyl]-4-piperidyl]propionanilide) and 3-methylthiofentanyl (N-[3-methyl-1-[2-(2-thienyl)ethyl]-4-piperidyl]propionanilide) should be included in Schedules I and IV of that Convention. Under article 3 of the Convention, the Commission should decide whether or not to add any or all of the six substances to Schedule I and Schedule IV.

Further to a notification by the Government of the United States of America pursuant to article 2 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, 2/ WHO has notified the Secretary-General that it is of the opinion that dronabinol (INN), defined as (6aR,10aR)-6a,7,8,10a-tetrahydro-6,6,9-trimethyl-3-pentyl-6H-dibenzo[b,d]-pyran-1-ol or (-)-trans-delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, which is currently in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention and is listed as one of the stereochemical variants of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, should be transferred from that schedule to Schedule II. Under the terms of article 2 of the 1971 Convention, the Commission should decide whether to transfer the substance from Schedule I to Schedule II or, if not, whatever other action may be appropriate.

The Commission will examine a recommendation by WHO pursuant to article 2 of the 1971 Convention to the effect that the substance midazolam (8-chloro-6-(o-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-4H-imidazo[1,5-a][1,4]benzodiazepine) should be included in Schedule IV of that Convention and that the three substances N-hydroxy MDA ((±)-N-[alpha-methyl-3,4-(methylenedioxy)phenethyl]hydroxylamine), N-ethyl MDA ((±)-N-ethyl-alpha-methyl-3,4-(methylenedioxy)phenethylamine) and 4-methylaminorex ((±)-cis-2-amino-4-methyl-5-phenyl-2-oxazoline) should be included in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention. Under the terms of article 2 of that Convention, the Commission should decide whether these four substances should be specifically included in those Schedules or, if not, whatever other action may be appropriate.

With regard to the two preceding paragraphs, the attention of the Commission is drawn to the fact that, in accordance with the provisions of article 17 of the 1971 Convention, "the decisions of the Commission provided for in articles 2 and 3 shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Commission." From a practical point of view, this means that for a decision to carry an affirmative vote of at least 27 members of the Commission is required.

The cumulative index of national laws and regulations relating to the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for the period 1980-1986, which was before the Commission at its thirty-third session (E/CN.7/1989/CRP.7), was published in July 1989 and is before the Commission

(E/NL.1986/Index). The Commission will also have before it a note by the Secretary-General on the cumulative index of laws and regulations published in the E/NL. series since 1986 (E/CN.7/1990/4/Add.1).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on urgent matters concerning the implementation of international drug control treaties (E/CN.7/1990/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the cumulative index of national laws and regulations published in the E/NL. series relating to the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (E/CN.7/1990/4/Add.1)

Cumulative index of national laws and regulations relating to the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, 1980-1986 (E/NL.1986/Index)

4. Review of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1989

The report of the International Narcotics Control Board is submitted to the Council through the Commission pursuant to article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending that Convention, and to article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention. The Commission, in accordance with the provisions of those articles, may make such comments on the report as it sees fit in transmitting it to the Council.

Documentation

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1989 (E/INCB/1989/1)

Note by the Secretary-General on the review of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1989 (E/CN.7/1990/6)

5. Entry into force and provisional application of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

In paragraph 3 of its resolution 43/120 of 8 December 1988 and in paragraph 7 of its resolution 44/140 of 15 December 1989, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control, to identify suitable measures to be taken prior to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2), adopted in December 1988.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its thirty-third session, in draft resolution I, adopted by the Economic and Social Council as resolution 1989/13 of 22 May 1989, urged States to take the requisite legal and administrative measures to achieve effective implementation of the 1988 Convention. The Economic and Social Council also adopted resolution 1989/19 of 22 May 1989 on the provisional application of the 1988 Convention.

The Second Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (Interregional HONLEA), held at Vienna from 11 to 15 September 1989, adopted by consensus resolution II, entitled "Early ratification of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances", and resolution III, entitled "Recommended countermeasures and

special techniques", which contains specific measures that States may take for the early entry into force of the 1988 Convention and its effective implementation (E/CN.7/1990/2).

The Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, at its twenty-fifth session, held at Ankara from 2 to 6 October 1989, adopted draft resolution III, entitled "Provisional application of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" (E/CN.7/1990/3, chap. I, sect. A), to be recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

These recommendations will be presented to the Commission in a report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.7/1990/7), which also covers the events that have occurred since its thirty-third session that have a bearing on the provisional application and entry into force of the 1988 Convention.

The Commission will have before it the reports of three expert group meetings organized by the Division of Narcotic Drugs in 1989 (a) on pre-trial destruction of seized narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, precursors and essential chemicals (E/CN.7/1990/7/Add.1); (b) on environmentally safe methods for the eradication of illicit narcotic plants (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.7); and (c) on the detection of illicit cultivation of narcotic plants by remote sensing (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.15).

The Commission will also have before it the reports of three workshops on the utilization of community resources for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse, which were held in 1989 at La Paz (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.11), at Nairobi (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.12) and at Vigo, Spain (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.13).

The Commission may wish to consider measures States may take to enact legislation needed for the implementation of the 1988 Convention or to harmonize their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention. It may also wish to instruct the Division to assist States, at their request, in taking such measures.

Documentation

Report of the Second Interregional Meeting of Heads on National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (Interregional HONLEA) (E/CN.7/1990/2)

Report of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on its twenty-fifth session (E/CN.7/1990/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the entry into force and provisional application of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (E/CN.7/1990/7)

Report on the meeting of the expert group on pre-trial destruction of seized narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, precursors and essential chemicals (E/CN.7/1990/7/Add.1)

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Environmentally Safe Methods for the Eradication of Illicit Narcotic Plants (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.7)

Reports of workshops on the utilization of community resources for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.11, 12 and 13)

Report on the meeting of the expert group on the detection of illicit cultivation of narcotic plants by remote sensing (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.15)

6. Medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 concerning the drug control programme

The draft programme on international drug control of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 was submitted to the Commission for review and comments at its thirty-third session. 3/ The Commission was not in a position to review the plan in depth at that session. Because consideration of the plan at the next regular session in 1991 would be too late for it to have the necessary impact, the item was included in the agenda for the eleventh special session. The Commission may wish to provide its comments to the Secretary-General on the objectives and strategies proposed for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997; on the priority to be given to the proposed subprogrammes; and on the new activities proposed for the plan.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 concerning the drug control problem (E/CN.7/1990/11)

Report of the Secretariat on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 concerning the drug control problem (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.14)

7. Development and promotion of more effective action against illicit drug trafficking through regional co-operation in drug law enforcement

Under item 7 of its provisional agenda, the Commission will consider the recommendations submitted by its subsidiary bodies. Since the thirty-third session of the Commission, the Second Interregional HONLEA and the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East have been held. The reports on those meetings will be before the Commission (E/CN.7/1990/2, E/CN.7/1990/3 and E/CN.7/1990/12). The recommendations to be considered by the Commission are outlined in a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.7/1990/8).

Documentation

Report of the Second Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (Interregional HONLEA) (E/CN.7/1990/2)

Report of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on its twenty-fifth session (E/CN.7/1990/3)

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of subsidiary bodies (E/CN.7/1990/8)

Report of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on its twenty-sixth session (E/CN.7/1990/12)

8. Interim report of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control

An interim report of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (E/CN.7/1990/10) will be before the Commission, as decided by the Commission at its twenty-ninth session 4/ and explained in a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.7/1990/9). Additional reports will be made available as background documents (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.9 and E/CN.7/1990/CRP.10).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (E/CN.7/1990/9)

Interim report of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (E/CN.7/1990/10)

Comprehensive review of activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in 1989 (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.9)

Financial data on operations financed by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.10)

9. Other urgent matters

In its resolution 44/16 of 1 November 1989, the General Assembly decided to convene a special session at a high political level to consider as a matter of urgency the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs, with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such co-operation. In its decision 44/410 of 14 November 1989, the Assembly decided that the special session should take place at United Nations Headquarters from 20 to 23 February 1990. It also decided to establish a preparatory committee of the whole to meet for two days during the first week of December 1989 and for three days during the first week of February 1990. In that decision, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its eleventh special session to consider the question of the enhancement of the role of the United Nations in the fight against illicit drugs and to formulate its views thereon for the benefit of the work of the Assembly at its special session, taking into account all relevant resolutions and decisions of the Assembly at its forty-fourth session. In addition, the General Assembly invited the Commission to transmit to the Assembly at its special session any views on matters pertaining to that session. From 6 to 7 December 1989, the preparatory committee met and adopted the agenda for the special session of the Assembly (E/CN.7/1990/15, annex). To guide the Commission in its consideration of item 9 of the provisional agenda, the Secretariat has prepared a background paper (E/CN.7/1990/15).

At its thirty-third session, the Commission decided to give further consideration at its eleventh special session to the question of whether to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the enlargement of the membership of the Commission from 40 to 50 members. 5/ Accordingly, that question will be before the Commission for its consideration (E/CN.7/1990/5).

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.7/1990/13) containing a summary of comments received from States members and observers of the Commission in response to a request contained in its resolution 4 (XXXIII), entitled "Review of recurrent publications and other documentation". 6/

The Commission will have before it the reports of four expert group meetings organized by the Division in 1989 (a) on the establishment of an international drug abuse assessment system (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.3); (b) on the establishment of guidelines for training programmes in forensic and toxicology analysis (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.4); (c) on recommended methods of testing barbiturate derivatives under international control and hallucinogenic plant products

(E/CN.7/1990/CRP.5); and (d) on the detection and assay of controlled drugs in biological specimens (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.6).

For background information, the Commission will have before it a conference room paper containing statistical data on seizures made in the illicit drug traffic (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.8).

The Commission will also have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the development of a drug information strategy (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.16).

The Commission will have before it a report on the extent, patterns and trends of drug abuse by region and a summary of the drug abuse situation worldwide based on information provided by Governments in part B of the annual reports questionnaire (E/CN.7/1990/14).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on enlargement of the membership of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/1990/5)

Note by the Secretary-General on the review of recurrent publications: summary of comments received from States members of and observers to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/1990/13)

Report of the Secretary-General on drug abuse: extent, patterns and trends (E/CN.7/1990/14)

Note by the Secretary-General on the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs, with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such co-operation (E/CN.7/1990/15)

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of an International Drug Abuse Assessment System (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.3)

Report of the Consultative Group on Establishment of Guidelines for Training Programmes in Forensic and Toxicology Analysis (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.4)

Report on the meeting of the Expert Group on Recommended Methods of Testing Barbiturate Derivatives under International Control and Hallucinogenic Plant Products (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.5)

Report on the meeting of the Expert Group on the Detection and Assay of Controlled Drugs in Biological Specimens (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.6)

Data on illicit traffic on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, 1986-1988 (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.8)

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of a drug information strategy (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.16)

10. Report of the Commission on its eleventh special session

According to practice, the Commission will be asked to adopt resolutions and decisions following the discussion of the specific agenda item to which they relate and to adopt its report on the special session on the last day.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 976, No. 14152.

2/ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 5 (E/1989/23), chap. VII, sect. C.

4/ Ibid., 1981, Supplement No. 4 (E/1981/24), para. 282 (c).

5/ Ibid., 1989, Supplement No. 5 (E/1989/23), chap. VIII, sect. B.

6/ Ibid., chap. X, sect. A.